

SUB TOPIC THEME:
PCS-HERE WE GO AGAIN!

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

Identifying feelings and strategies for dealing with the moving process are important to building resilience toward a productive PCS experience. Since people have been moving since Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden, taking a cue from the life of Abraham on handling a big move can provide us with a bedrock strategy.



Set Up Info:

Supplies Needed:

1. Computer or internet connection to watch the YouTube video
2. A pair of dice
3. Map of the area where Abram traveled (Egypt, Canaan, Bethel, & Ai)
4. Copies of the Student Response sheet (printed below)
5. Bibles so you can look up the Scripture story (or copy the ones below)
6. A passion to see students transformed in their positive influence on friends!

Instructive Prep:

There is a mental and emotional thing that we go through when we have to move. We may have different reactions to the idea of PCSing based on past experiences and our emotional state at the time, but we all have to deal with the process of moving, in particular, packing!

This session is designed to look at ways teens can identify some of the human pieces of moving like what to do with our stuff and what to take and what to leave and all of the 'little' decisions that build and build. Understanding that there are multiple stories of people transitioning in the Scriptures can help teens to learn some ways that people in the Bible dealt with picking up and going to another place.

The progression of these studies is four-fold: *learn, feel, do and what next*. The goal is for students to learn something new, connect at an emotional level to some degree, and participate in doing something during the study (like making a hand gesture as a weapon). Finally, the *what next* focuses on a change in attitude and/or behavior, which you will find in the challenge of the Life Application section. Remember, the movement is toward spiritual and emotional transformation in kids' lives, so the application section based on God's truth is really the crux of the time together! Have fun and lead well.

INTRO:

If you are a teen in a military family (other than the National Guard or Reserves usually), then you know what PCSing is all about. People have different reactions to this inevitable event in the life of military families. Whatever your emotional and mental responses to this transition, the fact is, it happens and is going to happen again! Maybe there are some ways to deal with all of the crazy details that go into this PCS thing. Maybe you can do it better the next time than last time, so that it builds strength and resilience in you rather than draining life out of you.

INTRO STORY:

I know a high school guy who says that, whenever his dad comes home and tells the family that they're moving, he stops talking to his dad from that point because he is so mad. He avoids his dad until they move. It seems like that may not be the best strategy for dealing with what seems to be a pretty sure thing in a military family...moving to the next place. Maybe it's because he feels like he has no say in the matter, and that's his way of taking it out on his dad for being in the military. I sort of understand, but I feel sorry for him.

One of the hardest things for me is the *process* of moving itself. There are so many details from packing to yard sales to shipping the car to deciding what to ship first (hold baggage) and what to carry on the plane and what we will need there first and how to get the dog there and cleaning and trying to keep life going and living in a half-empty house and how to say goodbyes and how to keep track of those color tape numbers on the hundreds of boxes and remembering where you put what and when to stop mail and how to get signatures at school and my records and how long we will travel and stay at grandma's and....shall I go on. You can probably add lots more to my list. Did I mention packing the car? You may have a favorite packing story; here's mine:

On a move from Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily to Frankfurt, Germany, we knew we would have to pack carefully. We owned a very boxy Volkswagen Vanagon, and I was pretty cocky about my ability to link my packing skills with my eye for spatial orientations. I began by putting a nice piece of Italian marble as the base of all of the rest of the lighter stuff. It fit perfectly in the large flat back section of the van! Sweet! Looking around at all of the objects laying in the garage, I selected one item then another and another, fitting packable things like playing Tetris. I was fitting everything in and life was going well. About an hour and a half later, our family of four had ALL of our non-shipped items nicely packed and ready for the morning departure! I was a happy camper, and as I grabbed the van's tailgate to shut it as if to close the door on the project with a triumphant finality, something very unexpected

happened. The tailgate door, which had been up during the entire 90 minutes, failed to latch when I put it all the way down. I tried again with a little more force only to hear and feel a solid ‘thud.’ This time I knew what it was, but I quickly convinced myself that with precise pressure, I could get the tailgate closed. I was wrong. It seems that the very first item I so proudly placed in the van, the slab of Italian marble, was about 3/8 of an inch too long! Try as I could, it would not budge...at all. In my head I knew what I would need to do, but in my state of denial I kept trying to figure out how to shrink a piece of marble. After about 15 minutes of wasted effort, and that very deep, sinking feeling inside when you finally admit to yourself that you have to think about the unthinkable, I began the unpacking process. All of it! Down to the absolute bottom piece of marble. Once I readjusted it to a standing position, I started re-packing....everything. About 30 minutes later (I had a feeling where everything fit best this time), I had re-completed the task. I closed the tailgate, locked the doors and went upstairs to declare we were now packed and ready to go in the morning. But the process of packing can try the best of our patience.

Here are few looks at the process of packing and moving. One is an older movie called “Moving” with Richard Pryor. These few scenes actually deal with several aspects of the moving process (Caution: there is one S*** word and one SOB – and that’s pretty good for it being Richard Pryor).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CfjSLLF57c>

Next are the old and new versions of the Beverly Hillbillies who loaded up the truck and moved to Beverly...Hills, that is. It’s a funny look at the moving process, but you might identify with setting up shop in the new place:

Old Beverly Hillbillies with song

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDnUuM5F-Fw>

New – trailer

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy0tjb-Gjqw&feature=related>

Lastly is the final scene from Toy Story 3, which might really provide an emotional connection to packing your stuff up and leaving some things behind:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWZNZjSjco0>

Intro Questions:

1. How many times have you personally gone through a PCS move?
2. What was the hardest move you’ve made? The easiest?

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Roll the dice to see who goes first. Use low score or high score, and then go counter clockwise. Roll dice for every question. .

1. At the beginning of the story, there was a high school guy who stopped speaking to his dad when he found out about moving. Have you ever done that before? What's your first reaction to the PCS news?
2. What's the hardest part of moving for you? Finding out (beginning), packing (middle), or leaving/traveling (end). Describe what you usually do in each phase below. (see Student Response sheet)
3. Looking at the packing story, how do you relate to the discovery of the tailgate not closing? How would that make you feel?
4. Make a list of all the things you saw in the "Moving" video clip with Richard Pryor that remind you of different parts of the moving process. (*like getting a moving company, teenager wanting to stay for last year of school, etc.*) (see Student Response sheet)
5. Have you ever had to leave things behind like Andy did in Toy Story 3? How did it make you feel?
6. Write your own questions: _____

CENTRAL BIBLE PASSAGE

The following Scripture story is about Abram (before God actually renamed him Abraham) in one of his many, many PCS moves.

Genesis 13:1-4: *From Egypt to Bethel*

¹Abram went north out of Egypt to the southern part of Canaan with his wife and everything he owned, and Lot went with him. ²Abram was a very rich man, with sheep, goats, and cattle, as well as silver and gold. ³Then he left there and moved from place to place, going toward Bethel. He reached the place between Bethel and Ai where he had camped before ⁴and had built an altar. There he worshiped the LORD.

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. See if you can find these places on a map where Abram traveled. What are some problems/issues involving moving that you notice Abram had to prepare for and deal with? (use Student response sheet)
2. Discuss with the group what you think were the most difficult parts to the move and why. How does this seem similar or different from your own experiences?
3. What do you think is the significance of having built an altar when he had been at this location before? Discuss what Abram might have done to worship the Lord.
4. Design a 'worship experience' that you could use through a PCS move and when you get to your new location. Think about other friends you might share this with as they deal with the PCS process. (use Student response sheet)
5. Write your own challenge: _____

STUDENT RESPONSES:

1. DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DO IN EACH PHASE OF THE MOVING PROCESS.

BEGINNING (FINDING OUT):

MIDDLE (PACKING):

END (LEAVING):

2. LIST THE THINGS YOU SAW IN 'MOVING' THAT REPRESENT PARTS OF THE PCS PROCESS:

3. ABRAM'S MOVING ISSUES/PROBLEMS:

4. DESIGN A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP THAT COULD BE USED THROUGHOUT THE PCS PROCESS: